SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
C. & S. B. REGISTRY.
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PIRACY ON JARDINE'S STEAMER.

The gang that pirated the Jardine's steamer Yee Sung (怡生) consisted of twenty one men. The leader was about 30 years of age and dressed in a "Sun Yat-sen" suit. When the pirates had completed their nefarious work, they told the crew that they arrived in Shanghai as far back as the beginning of December last year (Lunar Calendar) from Hongkong and their leader carried with him about $5,000 to pay travelling expenses.

They first stayed at the Oriental Hotel (東亞), because they thought that they might pirate a passenger steamer in a short time and net several thousand dollars. However, there was no opportunity of carrying out the scheme. As the amount of money they carried became less, they moved to the Central Hotel (中央). Afterwards they chose a small hhtel where they paid only 30 cents per person a day. Despite the curtailment in expenses, they had to pawn their belongings to pay for food. While telling the story, they took out of their packets a bundle of pawn tickets, the smallest one valued 60 cents.

Under the circumstances they decided on the 11th to commit a piraty on the steamer Yee Sung.

According to the leader, members of the pirate party came from Waichow (惠州), Kwangtung, and were engaged in piracy for a living. The purpose of their coming to Shanghai was not to pirate a Jardine's steamer, nor a China Merchants' vessel, because one of the China Merchants steamers the Poo An (普安) had been pirated previously. They really intended to pirate the steamer Zung Tien (順天), one of the Butterfield & Swire's vessels on the journey between Shanghai and Northern Ports, because large amounts

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of cash were usually carried on the steamer and also because the passengers were usually rich. Before the S.S. Zung Tien sailed, the pirates boarded the vessel on many occasions for an inspection. It was found that strict anti-piracy devices were installed in the vessel. As it would be difficult to take command of the vessel, they returned ashore although they paid two visits. Therefore they changed their plans and decided to pirate the S.S. Yee Sung which had no anti-piracy devices.

The bandits said that altogether three large parties of pirates arrived in Shanghai from Hongkong in 1933. The first party pirated the S.S. Poo An and the passengers on the vessel who were carried off by the pirates have paid ransoms. The 2nd party of the pirates plundered the S.S. Yee Sung. It is reported that 13 of these are professional pirates, while 8 of them joined the gang for the one occasion. The 3rd party of the pirates is still in Shanghai awaiting a chance to plunder a vessel. The local navigation authorities should pay attention to the matter.

Commr
Sir,
Information.
Copies have been given to interested shipping concerns.
DC(Comm) DC(Dev) & D.O.
J.H.W. Robertson
Supt.
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JR

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